

MAY 4 1966

CIA Man's 'Counsel'

Detective Is Silent On Probe of Heine

By Stephen S. Rosenfeld

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A veteran Washington detective refused yesterday to answer a lawyer's questions about his investigation of Erik Heine, who has been accused of being a Soviet spy.

The detective, Thomas W. LaVenla, a former Secret Service agent and investigator for the late Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy (R-Wis.), refused on grounds that he is "associate counsel" for Central Intelligence Agency employee Juri Raus.

LaVenla was identified in a Federal Court hearing two weeks ago as one of two "investigators" and "independent contractors" hired to help Raus defend himself against Heine's \$110,000 slander suit.

Under subpoena, he appeared yesterday to give a sworn statement to Heine's lawyers about Raus's relationship with the CIA.

He declined any further comment when reached last night at his home at 1601 Old Stage rd., Alexandria.

LaVenla, 54, graduated from St. Johns University Law School and is a member of the D.C. bar. While working for Sen. McCarthy, he was denied a Defense Department security clearance because, he himself suggested, he had belonged briefly to a student group later tagged by McCarthy as a Communist front, and because of a misunderstanding about his onetime Secret Service role as a "playboy" in the Hyde Park, N.Y., area as

signed to gather information to protect then-President Roosevelt, whose estate was there.

In 1958 the Teamsters paid him \$10,918 to investigate three staff members of the Senate Rackets subcommittee. He was last in the news in 1962 when he was hired by lawyer Paul R. Connolly—Raus's lawyer now—to find out who had bugged a Texas gas man's Mayflower Hotel suite.

Meanwhile Heine's lawyers conferred with Harry C. McPherson Jr., special counsel to the President, on their bid to the White House to let them pass the secrecy barrier thrown up around Raus by the CIA.

The lawyers have invoked an obscure executive order that requires the President to review citizens' complaints about CIA secrecy. They were told by McPherson to prepare a memo on their request that testimony be required on the relationship of Raus and the CIA.

Raus is a Washington highway engineer and leader in Estonian emigre affairs. He says that on CIA orders he called Heine, a former Estonian who now lives in Canada, a Soviet spy in order to discredit Heine in emigre ranks.

Final arguments on a defense motion to dismiss Heine's slander suit are due to be heard in Baltimore Federal Court on May 13.